### **Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources**

#### LD 52 An Act to Extend the Closed Season on Scallop Harvesting in a Certain Area of this State

**ONTP** 

Sponsor(s)Committee ReportAmendments AdoptedPINKHAM W<br/>RUHLINONTP RUHLIN

LD 52 proposed to prohibit the taking of scallops from April 15th to November 30th north of a line from Stanley Point in Steuben to Schoodic Point in Winter Harbor.

#### LD 93 An Act to Repeal the Requirement That Lobster Traps Have Tags

**ONTP** 

Sponsor(s)Committee ReportAmendments AdoptedPINKHAM WONTP MAJ<br/>OTP-AM MIN

LD 93 proposed to repeal the requirement that lobster traps have tags.

#### An Act to Allow Wholesale Seafood License Holders to Process LD 199 **Parts of Lobster Tails**

**PUBLIC 84 EMERGENCY** 

Sponsor(s) BAGLEY CASSIDY Committee Report
OTP-AM MAJ

Amendments Adopted H-84

LD 199 proposed to authorize the Commissioner of Marine Resources, with the advice and consent of the Marine Resources Advisory Council, to issue a special license that exempts a person who wants to develop and test market a processed seafood product from one or more marine resources' laws as to the time, place, length, condition, amount and manner of taking or possessing a marine organism and laws that prohibit the possession of parts of a marine organism.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-84) proposed to replace the bill. It proposed to allow a wholesale seafood license holder to process portions of lobster tails.

#### Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 84 allows a wholesale seafood license holder to process portions of lobster tails. The law is effective on April 11, 1997.

#### **LD 246**

### An Act to Restrict the Identification Tags Used on Lobster Traps to Consecutive Numbers

**ONTP** 

Sponsor(s)Committee ReportAmendments AdoptedTRIPPONTP

LD 246 proposed to prohibit any tag issued by the Commissioner of Marine Resources under the lobster trap tag system from containing the lobster and crab fishing license number, name or any other form of personal identification of the person who purchases the tag. It would have required tags to be numbered and issued to individual lobster and crab fishing license holders in consecutive order.

### LD 273 Resolve, Directing the Commissioner of Marine Resources to Report on the Status of Discussions with the Passamaguoddy Tribe

RESOLVE 11 EMERGENCY

Sponsor(s)Committee ReportAmendments AdoptedGOODWINOTP-AMH-33

LD 273 proposed to require the Commissioner of Marine Resources meet with the Passamaquoddy Tribe to attempt to work out an agreement regarding the tribe's aboriginal fishing rights in coastal waters.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-33) proposed to replace the resolve. It proposed to require the Commissioner of Marine Resources, or the commissioner's designee, report to the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources by May 1, 1997 on the status of ongoing discussions between representatives of the Joint Tribal Council of the Passamaquoddy Tribe and of the State of Maine concerning the taking of marine resources by members of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, including any proposed amendments to the laws administered by the Department of Marine Resources.

#### Enacted law summary

Resolve 1997, chapter 11 requires the Commissioner of Marine Resources, or the commissioner's designee, to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources by May 1, 1997 on the status of ongoing discussions between representatives of the Joint Tribal Council of the Passamaquoddy Tribe and of the State of Maine concerning the taking of marine resources by members of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, including any proposed amendments to the laws administered by the Department of Marine Resources. The resolve is effective on March 28, 1997.

LD 276

# An Act to Extend the Territorial Waters to 12 Miles for the Purpose of Marine Resource Protection and the Enforcement of Marine Resource Laws

**ONTP** 

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report		Amendments Adopted
VOLENIK	ONTP	MAJ	_
GOLDTHWAIT	OTP-AM	MIN	

LD 276 proposed to extend the statutory authority of the State's marine resources law to apply to all activities that occur within 12 geographic miles seaward of Maine's coastline.

#### LD 311 An Act to Establish the Status of New Fisheries

ONTP

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
ETNIER	ONTP	

LD 311 proposed to require all fisheries that are actively being fished to be identified in a registry. Those fisheries not on the registry would have been closed to fishing until the establishment of a management program. The bill would have given the Commissioner of Marine Resources the authority to allow participation in experimental fisheries for species not on the registry.

# LD 315 An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Fees Charged in the Elver Fishery

**PUBLIC 297** 

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
PINKHAM W	OTP-AM	H-457

LD 315 proposed to reduce to \$50 per net or trap the fee for the use of an elver fyke net, Sheldon eel trap or dip net to fish for or take elvers. The bill also proposed that the fee for one elver fyke net, Sheldon eel trap or dip net be included in the fee for an elver fishing license.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-457) proposed to clarify that the bill's \$50 increase in elver license fees, which includes the use of one elver fyke net, one Sheldon eel trap or one dip net, accrues to the dedicated Eel and Elver Management Fund. Under current law, all net fees are paid separately from license fees. The amendment also proposed changes in current law regarding the fees for use of additional gear. The fee for a first and second elver fyke net or Sheldon eel trap would be \$50, except that this fee would not apply to the first net if a person elected to use an elver fyke net or Sheldon eel trap as the one piece of gear allowed under the license fee. The per net fee for a third elver fyke net or Sheldon eel trap would be \$100. The per net fee for a fourth and fifth elver fyke net or Sheldon eel trap would be \$200. The amendment also proposed to reduce the fee for a dip net from \$75 to \$50, except that this fee would not apply to a first dip net used if a person elected to use a dip net as the one piece of gear allowed under the license fee.

The amendment also proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.

#### Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 297 raises the elver license fee by \$50, but includes the use of one elver fyke net, Sheldon eel trap or dip net be included in the fee for an elver fishing license. Previously all net fees were paid separately from the license. The public law also changes current law regarding the fees for use of additional gear. The fee for a first and second elver fyke net or Sheldon eel trap is \$50, except that this fee does not apply to the first net if a person elects to use an elver fyke net or Sheldon eel trap as the one piece of gear allowed under the license fee. The per net fee for a third elver fyke net or Sheldon eel trap is \$100. The per net fee for a fourthth and fifth elver fyke net or Sheldon eel trap is \$200. The amendment also reduces the fee for a dip net from \$75 to \$50, except that this fee does not apply to a first dip net used if a person elects to use a dip net as the one piece of gear allowed under the license fee.

### LD 316 An Act to Establish a 30-day Temporary Sea Urchin and Scallop Diving Tender License

**PUBLIC 158** 

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
PINKHAM W	OTP-AM	H-192
		H-205 CAMERON

LD 316 proposed to create a 30-day sea urchin and scallop diving tender license.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-192)** proposed to replace the bill and allow a person to obtain a 30-day temporary sea urchin and scallop diving tender license if that person provides a current certificate documenting that the person has received training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation. The license would be issued to a person only one time and would not be renewable.

**House Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-205)** proposed to make a technical change in the Committee Amendment "A".

#### Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 158 allows a person to obtain a 30-day temporary sea urchin and scallop diving tender license if that person provides a current certificate documenting that the person has received training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation. The license may be issued to a person only one time and is not renewable.

#### LD 353 An Act to Improve Management in the Elver Fishery

**PUBLIC 91** 

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
ETNIER	OTP-AM	H-114

LD 353 proposed to clarify the definition and construction of elver fyke nets and Sheldon eel traps. It also proposed to remove redundant language from the description of coastal waters, prohibits the setting of nets outside of the fishing season and adds dip nets

Committee Amendment "A" (H-114) proposed to require an elver fyke net be fitted with an excluder panel that measures one-half inch bar mesh and covers the entrance to the net. It proposed to enact a definition of elver dip net and add that for enforcement purposes an elver dip net immersed in the coastal waters between noon of March 15th and midnight of June 15th is presumed to be fishing for elvers. It proposed to prohibit a person from immersing a fyke net, Sheldon eel trap or dip net fitted with netting that measures one-eighth inch bar mesh or less in the coastal waters from midnight of June 15th to noon of March 15th. It proposed to change the portion of watercourses in which elvers may not be fished from the middle one-third as measured at mean high tide to the middle one-third as measured at mean low tide.

#### Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 91 requires an elver fyke net be fitted with an excluder panel that measures one-half inch bar mesh and covers the entrance to the net. It enacts a definition of elver dip net and adds that for enforcement purposes an elver dip net immersed in the coastal waters between noon of March 15th and midnight of June 15th is presumed to be fishing for elvers. It prohibits a person from immersing a fyke net, Sheldon eel trap or dip net fitted with netting that measures one-eighth inch bar mesh or less in the coastal waters from midnight of June 15th to noon of March 15th. It changes the portion of watercourses in which elvers may not be fished from the middle onethird as measured at mean high tide to the middle one-third as measured at mean low tide.

#### LD 403 An Act to Offer a Free Subsistence Fishing License to Persons 70 Years of Age or Older

Committee Report
ONTP Sponsor(s) Amendments Adopted BUTLAND

LD 403 proposed to create a complimentary subsistence fishing license for coastal waters for people 70 years of age or older. It would have allowed a license holder to fish for any marine organism for which the license holder had been licensed to harvest at any time in the past and for which the Department of Marine Resources issues a license. A license holder could only harvest marine organisms for personal use and could not sell the organisms.

#### **An Act Concerning Commercial Marine Fishing Licenses** LD 409

**ONTP** 

**ONTP** 

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
GOLDTHWAIT	ONTP	
ETNIER		

LD 409 proposed to provide that a retailer who sells any marine species in a preprocessed form that was manufactured by the holder of a wholesale seafood license would not be required to hold a retail seafood license for the sale of that product.

The bill would have removed shrimp from the definition of "fish."

It would have provided that the holder of a commercial shellfish license could sell shellfish that person had taken only to a seafood dealer who is certified as a shellfish dealer or to the final consumer. It would have also

established a shrimp harvesting license, and it would have established the Shrimp Research Fund, a dedicated fund capitalized through commercial shrimp fishing license revenues.

The bill would have provided that a commercial shellfish harvester not licensed by the State could apply to a town for a municipal license but that a municipal commercial shellfish license could not be issued unless that applicant possessed a state commercial shellfish license.

# LD 436 An Act Authorizing the St. George River Shellfish Management Committee to Determine Availability of and Fees for Clam Licenses

PUBLIC 247 See LD 1837

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
SKOGLUND	OTP-ND-NT	_
PINGREE		

LD 436 would have allowed the municipalities of St. George, Cushing South Thomaston, Thomaston and Warren to determine the cost of municipal shellfish licenses. These five municipalities have entered into a regional shellfish management agreement and have formed the St. George River Shellfish Management Committee. The committee unanimously voted "ought to pass, new draft" on an amended version of the bill. This version was printed as LD 1837. LD 1837, which was enacted as Public Law 1997, chapter 247, removes, on a statewide basis, the \$200 cap that a municipality may set for a local resident shellfish license.

### LD 456 An Act to Return Revenue from Lease Sites for Aquaculture to Municipalities

**ONTP** 

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report		Amendments Adopted
GOODWIN	ONTP	MAJ	_
	OTP-AM	MIN	

LD 456 proposed that the proceeds from an aquaculture lease be transferred to the municipality in which the leased site is located.

#### LD 468 An Act Pertaining to the Aquaculture Lease Law

**PUBLIC 138** 

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
HONEY	OTP-AM	H-167

LD 468 proposed to accomplish the following.

- 1. Provide for an experimental lease that may be for commercial aquaculture research as defined by the Commissioner of Marine Resources;
- 2. Eliminate the acreage cap for individual aquaculture leases and raise the individual ownership cap to 250 acres;

- 3. Provide that a hearing be held for an experimental lease only in the event that 5 or more individuals request one;
- 4. Provide that the biological assessment of an aquaculture site will take place during that time of the year determined to be biologically significant;
- 5. Add the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to the list of state agencies to be notified of an aquaculture hearing;
- 6. Raise the cap for total acreage to be owned by one individual to 250 acres in the context of lease renewals;
- 7. Raise the cap for total acreage owned by one individual to 250 acres in the context of transferring of leases;
- 8. Provide that a lease may be amended; and
- 9. Repeal that section of the statutes which provides for a lease by rule.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-167) proposed to strike from the bill an experimental aquaculture lease, an emergency aquaculture lease, authority for a person to hold an interest in up to 250 acres of aquaculture leases and authority for the Commissioner of Marine Resources to amend aquaculture leases. The amendment also proposed to strike a requirement that an aquaculture lease applicant assess the impact of an aquaculture operation on other potential uses of a site. It also proposed to expand the time period during which the Department of Marine Resources must conduct an assessment of a proposed aquaculture site from May to September to April 1st to November 15th. It also proposed to provide the Commissioner of Marine Resources the authority to establish by rule levels of assessment appropriate to the scale or potential environmental risk posed by a proposed lease activity.

#### Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 138 strikes a requirement that an aquaculture lease applicant assess the impact of an aquaculture operation on other potential uses of a site. It also expands the time period during which the Department of Marine Resources must conduct an assessment of a proposed aquaculture site from May to September to April 1st to November 15th. It also provides the Commissioner of Marine Resources the authority to establish by rule levels of assessment appropriate to the scale or potential environmental risk posed by a proposed lease activity. The law also adds the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to the list of state agencies to be notified of an aquaculture hearing and repeals that section of the statutes which provides for a lease by rule. It also repeals a requirement that aquaculture leases be issued in five-acre tracts.

# LD 482 An Act Regarding the Harvesting of Periwinkles in the Unorganized DIED BETWEEN Townships BODIES

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report		Amendments Adopted
GOODWIN	OTP-AM	MAJ	
	ONTP	MIN	

LD 482 proposed to allow a municipality to regulate the possession of periwinkles through the municipality's shellfish conservation ordinance.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-252) would have replaced the bill. It would have created a separate section of law to allow municipalities and unorganized territories to adopt ordinances regulating the harvesting of periwinkles in the intertidal zone. It would have required the Commissioner of Marine Resources to adopt rules by January 1, 1998 regarding the conservation and propagation of periwinkles. It also would have permitted the harvesting of periwinkles for personal use without a state commercial fishing license. The committee amendment was adopted by both the House and Senate, but the bill died in nonconcurrence.

#### LD 485 An Act to Limit the Taking of Sea Urchins

**ONTP** 

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
PINGREE	ONTP	

LD 485 proposed to limit the amount of sea urchins a person could harvest to 12 standard totes per day. It also would have shortened the sea urchin season by 20 days.

#### LD 500 An Act to Protect Near-shore Groundfish Spawning Areas

**PUBLIC 92** 

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report		Amendments Adopted
HARRIMAN	OTP-AM	MAJ	S-68
	ONTP	MIN	

LD 500 proposed to require that the Commissioner of Marine Resources adopt rules by January 1, 1998 that identify the time and location of cod, haddock and yellowtail flounder spawning in coastal waters. The bill proposed to allow only certain types of gear that is not capable of catching multispecies finfish in those spawning areas during the period those species are spawning. The bill proposed to require the commissioner to solicit information from interested parties in identifying coastal spawning areas.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-68) proposed to require the Commissioner of Marine Resources to identify by January 1, 1998 the location of all coastal waters that serve as spawning areas for cod, haddock or yellowtail flounder and the dates during which those spawning activities occur in each area. It proposed to require the commissioner to report by March 15, 2003 on areas identified as spawning areas for cod, haddock or yellowtail flounder and any actions taken by the commissioner regarding those spawning areas. It also proposed to repeal as of July 1, 2003 authority for the commissioner to identify spawning areas for cod, haddock or yellowtail flounder. The amendment also proposed to would also remove the emergency preamble and clause.

#### Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 92 requires the Commissioner of Marine Resources to identify by January 1, 1998 the location of all coastal waters that serve as spawning areas for cod, haddock or yellowtail flounder and the dates during which those spawning activities occur in each area. It also requires the commissioner to report by March 15, 2003 on areas identified as spawning areas for cod, haddock or yellowtail flounder and any actions taken by the commissioner regarding those spawning areas. It also repeals as of July 1, 2003 authority for the commissioner to identify spawning areas for cod, haddock or yellowtail flounder.

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report		Amendments Adopted
PINKHAM W	OTP-AM	MAJ	H-85
MACKINNON	ONTP	MIN	

LD 506 would have permitted the Commissioner of Marine Resources to close waters to Maine registered vessels out to 200 miles from Maine's coast.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-85)** proposed to replace the bill. It proposed to authorize the Commissioner of Marine Resources to close federal waters to the harvesting of marine organisms when the commissioner determined the organisms could become contaminated or polluted. The closures of federal waters could only be accomplished in accordance with authority granted through application of federal rules and regulations.

#### Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 93 authorizes the Commissioner of Marine Resources to close federal waters to the harvesting of marine organisms when the commissioner determines the organisms could become contaminated or polluted. The closures of federal waters may only be accomplished in accordance with authority granted through application of federal rules and regulations.

LD 507 An Act Concerning Sea Urchin Management

PUBLIC 177 EMERGENCY

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
ETNIER	OTP-AM	H-233
MACKINNON		

LD 507 proposed to extend the termination date for the surcharges on the sea urchin licenses and extend the termination date for the sea urchin research fund.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-233) proposed to authorize the Commissioner of Marine Resources to designate up to 150 days in sea urchin zone 1 and up to 170 days in sea urchin zone 2 as open days for the harvesting of sea urchins by hand, trap or rake. Under current law, the commissioner is required to designate 150 days in zone 1 and 170 days in zone 2. The amendment also proposed to require the commissioner to consult with the Sea Urchin Zone Council before deciding upon research projects and grants funded by the Sea Urchin Research Fund. The amendment also proposed to require the commissioner to use the fund for communicating research results and uses of fund revenues to licensed sea urchin harvesters, boat tenders, processors and buyers. In addition, the amendment proposed to make authorized zone changes for harvesters effective as of the start of the sea urchin season.

#### Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 177 extends the termination date for the surcharges on the sea urchin licenses and extends the termination date for the sea urchin research fund. It authorizes the Commissioner of Marine Resources to designate up to 150 days in sea urchin zone 1 and up to 170 days in sea urchin zone 2 as open days for the

harvesting of sea urchins by hand, trap or rake. Under current law, the commissioner is required to designate 150 days in zone 1 and 170 days in zone 2. The public law also requires the commissioner to consult with the Sea Urchin Zone Council before deciding upon research projects and grants funded by the Sea Urchin Research Fund. It also requires the commissioner to use the fund for communicating research results and uses of fund revenues to licensed sea urchin harvesters, boat tenders, processors and buyers. In addition, it makes authorized zone changes for harvesters effective as of the start of the sea urchin season. The law is effective on May 15, 1997.

#### LD 524 An Act to Modify the Process for Aquaculture Leases

**ONTP** 

Sponsor(s)	Committee	Report	Amendments Adopted
PERKINS	ONTP	MAJ	
	OTP-AM	MIN	

LD 524 proposed a process for arbitration of decisions by the Commissioner of Marine Resources regarding the granting of aquaculture leases.

#### LD 528 An Act Concerning Elver Fishing and Dip Nets

**ONTP** 

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
HONEY	ONTP	

LD 528 proposed to limit the method of elver harvesting to dip nets.

## LD 540 An Act to Correct Certain Errors and Inconsistencies in Marine Resources Laws

**PUBLIC 19** 

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report		Amendments Adopted
ETNIER	OTP	MAJ	
GOLDTHWAIT	ONTP	MIN	

LD 540 proposed to correct an outdated reference to the cost of lobster and crab fishing licenses.

It proposed to remove sea urchins from the definition of "fish" as it applies to a commercial fishing license because sea urchins are licensed through a specific sea urchin license.

It proposed to make certain laws limiting lobster harvesting apply to registered Maine vessels no matter where those vessels fish.

It also proposed to provide that the holder of a sea urchin and scallop tender license may possess, sell, transport and ship only sea urchins and scallops that were harvested by harvesters for whom the license holder has tended.

#### Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 19 corrects an outdated reference to the cost of lobster and crab fishing licenses.

It removes sea urchins from the definition of "fish" as it applies to a commercial fishing license because sea urchins are licensed through a specific sea urchin license.

It makes certain laws limiting lobster harvesting apply to registered Maine vessels no matter where those vessels fish.

It also provides that the holder of a sea urchin and scallop tender license may possess, sell, transport and ship only sea urchins and scallops that were harvested by harvesters for whom the license holder has tended.

It provides that the holder of a scallop tender license may possess, sell, transport or ship only scallops that were harvested by harvesters for whom the license holder has tended.

It removes reference to coastal waters with regard to where lobster trap limits apply.

#### LD 670 An Act to Increase the Visibility of a Kayak on Salt Water

ONTP

Sponsor(s) Committee Report Amendments Adopted
GOLDTHWAIT ONTP

LD 670 proposed that a person operating a kayak on the coastal waters display safety flags in accordance with rules developed by the Commissioner of Marine Resources.

#### LD 671 An Act Concerning Towing in Cable Areas

**PUBLIC 78** 

Sponsor(s) Committee Report Amendments Adopted
GOLDTHWAIT OTP

LD 671 proposed to amend the laws concerning dragging in waters identified as underwater cable or pipeline areas to clarify that a person may not operate a watercraft when towing a drag or trawl over such an area and to require that a drag or trawl must be lifted out of the water to transit a cable area.

#### Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 78 amends the laws concerning dragging in waters identified as underwater cable or pipeline areas to clarify that a person may not operate a watercraft when towing a drag or trawl over such an area and to require that a drag or trawl must be lifted out of the water to transit a cable area.

#### LD 692

#### An Act Concerning the Importation of Marine Organisms That May Be Dangerous to Indigenous Marine Life or Its Environment

**PUBLIC 153** 

Sponsor(s)<br/>ETNIERCommittee Report<br/>OTP-AMAmendments Adopted<br/>H-193MACKINNONH-193

LD 692 proposed to allow the Commissioner of Marine Resources to embargo, condemn or order destroyed any marine organism or marine organism product when it is determined that the product is infected by any organism that may endanger indigenous marine life or its environment.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-193) proposed to provide the Commissioner of Marine Resources authority to embargo, condemn or order destroyed any marine organism or marine organism product that, if introduced to the coastal waters, could endanger indigenous marine life or the marine environment. It also proposed to provide the Commissioner of Marine Resources authority to restrict the importation of a marine organism from a particular location when the commissioner determines that a marine organism from that location is or may be diseased or infected in any manner.

#### Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 153 provides the Commissioner of Marine Resources authority to embargo, condemn or order destroyed any marine organism or marine organism product that, if introduced to the coastal waters, could endanger indigenous marine life or the marine environment. It also provides the Commissioner of Marine Resources authority to restrict the importation of a marine organism from a particular location when the commissioner determines that a marine organism from that location is or may be diseased or infected in any manner.

### LD 722 An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Scallop Harvesting

**PUBLIC 281** 

Sponsor(s)	Committee	Report	Amendments Adopted
GOODWIN	OTP-AM	MAJ	H-210
	OTP-AM	MIN	H-257 SKOGLUND

LD 722 proposed to create a scallop fishing season that lasts from December 1st to April 15th. It proposed to require that any gear-conflict prevention rules that adjust the scallop harvesting dates be applied statewide if the rules result in a more restrictive season than that of December 1st to April 15th. It also would have expanded the current dragging limitations for South Bay in Lubec to apply to all of Cobscook Bay and the Maine waters of Passamaquoddy Bay and it would have added a limit on the ring size. The limitations would have been:

- 1. A maximum drag width of five feet, six inches for any combination of drags;
- 2. A minimum ring diameter of three inches; and
- 3. When a drag is used to harvest scallops, a maximum drag depth of eight rings.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-210) was the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources. It proposed to change the scallop season to November 16th to April 15th from the current season of November 1st to April 15th. It proposed to phase in minimum ring sizes for scallop drags, with a minimum three-inch ring diameter required starting November 16, 1997, a minimum three and one-quarter-inch ring diameter required starting November 16, 1999, and a minimum three and one-half inch ring diameter required starting November 16, 2001. The amendment also proposed to require the Commissioner of Marine Resources to adopt rules that limit the mesh size of net material on the top of a scallop drag, prohibit chafing gear or cookies on the top of a scallop drag, establish ring link restrictions for a scallop drag and prohibit drag or net obstructions. The amendment proposed to limit scallop drag width to five feet, six inches from November 16th to December 15th and 10 feet, six inches during the rest of the season. The amendment also proposed to limit the width for all drags in Cobscook Bay and the Maine waters of Passamaquoddy Bay to five feet, six inches. In addition, any drag used for harvesting scallops in Cobscook Bay and the Maine waters of Passamaquoddy Bay could not be greater than eight rings deep. The amendment also proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.

**House Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-257)** proposed to retain the current November 1st opening date for the scallop season. It also proposed to change the dates for phasing in minimum sizes for scallop drags and the dates for limiting drag widths to reflect a November 1st opening date.

#### Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 281 phases in minimum ring sizes for scallop drags, with a minimum three-inch ring diameter required starting November 1, 1997, a minimum three and one-quarter inch ring diameter required starting November 1, 2001. It also requires the Commissioner of Marine Resources to adopt rules that limit the mesh size of net material on the top of a scallop drag, prohibit chafing gear or cookies on the top of a scallop drag, establish ring link restrictions for a scallop drag and prohibit drag or net obstructions. It also limits scallop drag width to five feet, six inches from November 1st to November 30th and 10 feet, six inches during the rest of the season. It also limits the width for all drags in Cobscook Bay and the Maine waters of Passamaquoddy Bay to five feet, six inches. It also provides that any drag used for harvesting scallops in Cobscook Bay and the Maine waters of Passamaquoddy Bay may not be greater than eight rings deep.

### LD 727 An Act to Change the Membership of the Lobster Advisory Council PUBLIC 208

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report		Amendments Adopted
ETNIER	OTP-AM	MAJ	H-274
	ONTP	MIN	

LD 727 proposed to change the membership of the Lobster Advisory Council. Current law appoints members to the council based on county residence. The bill proposed to instead appoint as members the chairs of each of the lobster management policy council. The bill also proposed to permit the Lobster Advisory Council to engage in dispute resolution of issues affecting lobster management policy councils.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-274)** proposed to change the membership of the Lobster Advisory Council. It proposed to replace the eight county members of the council with members who are members of lobster management policy councils. It also proposed to add three members to the council who hold lobster and crab fishing licenses, but who are not members of a lobster management policy council.

#### Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 208 changes the membership of the Lobster Advisory Council. It replaces the eight county members of the council with members who are members of lobster management policy councils. It also addsthree members to the council who hold lobster and crab fishing licenses, but who are not members of a lobster management policy council.

#### LD 741 An Act to Repeal the Lobster Promotion Council

**ONTP** 

Sponsor(s)	Committee	Report	Amendments Adopted
LAYTON	ONTP	MAJ	
	OTP-AM	MIN	

LD 741 proposed to repeal the Lobster Promotion Council.

## LD 764 An Act Concerning Regulatory Authority to Protect Certain Marine Organisms

PUBLIC 123 EMERGENCY

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report		Amendments Adopted
ETNIER	OTP-AM	MAJ	H-136
GOLDTHWAIT	ONTP	MIN	

LD 764 proposed to amend current rule-making authority of the Commissioner of Marine Resources to allow the regulation of taking a particular marine organism in order to protect another marine organism.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-136)** proposed to change the designation of rulemaking authority from routine technical to major substantive. This change would require any rules developed under this authority to be reviewed by the Legislature.

#### Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 123 amends current rule-making authority of the Commissioner of Marine Resources to allow the regulation of taking a particular marine organism in order to protect another marine organism.

This law was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 25, 1997.

#### LD 773

#### An Act to Study a Marine Ecological Reserves Designation in State Coastal Waters

**ONTP** 

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
CHARTRAND	ONTP	_
LAFOUNTAIN		

LD 773 proposed that the Commissioner of Marine Resources establish a study of ecological marine reserves in state waters and to seek funding for the study from the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment and other sources.

LD 775 An Act Concerning Applied Aquaculture Research in the Coastal Waters of the State

PUBLIC 231 EMERGENCY

Sponsor(s)Committee ReportAmendments AdoptedHONEYOTP-AMH-249

LD 775 proposed to allow research to include commercial aquaculture production of marine organisms. Current law requires a person to have a license issued by the Commissioner of Marine Resources in order to operate aquaculture pens. The commissioner may grant an exemption for scientific research for a term not to exceed two years.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-249) proposed to replace the bill. It proposed to authorize the Commissioner of Marine Resources to grant a limited-purpose lease of submerged lands for scientific research or commercial aquaculture research and development. A limited-purpose lease would cover a maximum of two acres and be issued for a period of three years or less, unless application were made for a full aquaculture lease, in which case the limited-purpose lease could be occupied until the Commissioner of Marine Resources rendered a decision on the full aquaculture lease. The amendment also proposed to authorize the Commissioner of Marine Resources to grant an emergency aquaculture lease to relocate shellfish from an aquaculture lease area where the health and safety of the shellfish are threatened. An emergency aquaculture lease could be issued for a period of six months or less, unless application were made for a full aquaculture lease or a limited-purpose aquaculture lease, in which case the emergency aquaculture lease could be occupied until the Commissioner of Marine Resources rendered a decision on the other lease application.

#### Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 231 authorizes the Commissioner of Marine Resources to grant a limited-purpose lease of submerged lands for scientific research or commercial aquaculture research and development. A limited-purpose lease may cover a maximum of two acres and be issued for a period of three years or less, unless application is made for a full aquaculture lease, in which case the limited-purpose lease may be occupied until the Commissioner of Marine Resources renders a decision on the full aquaculture lease. The law also authorizes the Commissioner of Marine Resources to grant an emergency aquaculture lease to relocate shellfish from an aquaculture lease area where the health and safety of the shellfish are threatened. An emergency aquaculture lease may be issued for a period of six months or less, unless application is made for a full aquaculture lease or a limited-purpose aquaculture lease, in which case the emergency aquaculture lease may be occupied until the Commissioner of Marine Resources renders a decision on the other lease application. The law is effective on May 20, 1997.

PUBLIC 164

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
ETNIER	OTP-AM	H-194
BUTLAND		

LD 786 proposed to require transportation routes associated with dredging operations be approved by the Commissioner of Marine Resources. It proposed to prohibit dredging from April 1st to October 31st, unless an exception is granted by the Commissioner of Marine Resources. It proposed to authorize the Commissioner of Marine Resources to require dredging transportation routes be clearly marked. It also proposed to authorize the Commissioner of Marine Resources to require a dredge operator to publish in a newspaper the dredge spoils transportation route and the process a person can pursue to seek compensation for lost or damaged fishing gear caused by dredging-related activities outside of marked areas.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-194) proposed to require that the Commissioner of Marine Resources provide the Department of Environmental Protection with an assessment of the impacts of a proposed dredging operation on the fishing industry. It also proposed to require that a person granted a dredging permit clearly mark or designate the dredging area, the spoils disposal route and the transportation route; publish in a newspaper of general circulation in the area adjacent to the route the approved transportation route of the dredge spoils; and publish in a newspaper of general circulation in the area adjacent to the route a procedure that the applicant will use to respond to inquiries regarding the loss of fishing gear during the dredging operation.

#### Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 164 requires that the Commissioner of Marine Resources provide the Department of Environmental Protection with an assessment of the impacts of a proposed dredging operation on the fishing industry. It also requires that a person granted a dredging permit clearly mark or designate the dredging area, the spoils disposal route and the transportation route; publish in a newspaper of general circulation in the area adjacent to the route the approved transportation route of the dredge spoils; and publish in a newspaper of general circulation in the area adjacent to the route a procedure that the applicant will use to respond to inquiries regarding the loss of fishing gear during the dredging operation.

#### LD 847 An Act to Amend the Laws Pertaining to Sea Urchin Licenses

**ONTP** 

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report		Amendments Adopted
SKOGLUND	ONTP	MAJ	_
	OTP	MIN	

LD 847 proposed that limited entry sea urchin harvesters hold either a handfishing license or a dragging license. It would have prohibited a sea urchin harvester from holding both licenses in one calendar year unless that harvester held both licenses in 1993. The limited entry provisions of the sea urchin laws began with the 1994 calendar year.

**ONTP** 

Sponsor(s)Committee ReportAmendments AdoptedGOLDTHWAIT<br/>ETNIERONTP

LD 942 proposed to repeal the law that establishes the scallop season.

LD 951

An Act to Maximize the State's Processing of Aquaculture Fish and to Extend the Salmon Aquaculture Monitoring, Research and Development Fund

PUBLIC 189 EMERGENCY

Sponsor(s)Committee ReportAmendments AdoptedGOODWINOTP-AMH-251

LD 951 proposed to require that marine organisms raised under an aquaculture lease issued by the Commissioner of Marine Resources be processed in the United States.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-251) proposed to change the repeal of the Salmon Aquaculture Monitoring, Research and Development Fund and the Maine Salmon Aquaculture Advisory Council from July 1, 1997 to July 1, 1999. It also proposed to require the Commissioner of Marine Resources to report by February 1, 1998 on strategies to maximize in-state processing of fish raised in Maine aquaculture facilities and strategies for growth of the State's aquaculture industry in a manner compatible with traditional fisheries.

#### Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 189 changes the repeal of the Salmon Aquaculture Monitoring, Research and Development Fund and the Maine Salmon Aquaculture Advisory Council from July 1, 1997 to July 1, 1999. It also requires the Commissioner of Marine Resources to report by February 1, 1998 on strategies to maximize instate processing of fish raised in Maine aquaculture facilities and strategies for growth of the State's aquaculture industry in a manner compatible with traditional fisheries. The law is effective on May 15, 1997.

#### LD 992 An Act to Amend the Sea Urchin Management Plan

**ONTP** 

Sponsor(s) Committee Report Amendments Adopted
CIANCHETTE ONTP

LD 992 proposed to eliminate the 150-day limit for taking sea urchins in Zone 1 and the 170-day limit for taking sea urchins in Zone 2.

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
KILKELLY	ONTP	
CHARTRAND		

LD 1122 proposed to repeal municipal authority to limit the harvesting of shellfish in a municipality or require a municipal license to harvest shellfish in that municipality. It proposed to permit the Commissioner of Marine Resources to enter into agreements with municipalities to participate in shellfish management activities undertaken by the Department of Marine Resources. It would have authorized the Commissioner of Marine Resources to distribute grants from the Shellfish Fund to municipalities that have entered into shellfish management agreements with the commissioner and that have established shellfish committees. It proposed to require the commissioner to set by rule the fee for a state shellfish license at a level that is adequate to fund the shellfish management activities of the department and activities related to any cooperative shellfish management agreements with municipalities.

# LD 1202 Resolve, to Require the Governor to Provide for Ballast Water Management Planning

**ONTP** 

Sponsor(s)	Committee	Report	Amendments Adopted
CHARTRAND	ONTP	MAJ	_
	OTP-AM	MIN	

LD 1202 proposed that the Governor appoint an ex officio member to the federal Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force to address issues related primarily to ballast water. The resolve would have also required the Governor to prepare and submit to the task force a state aquatic nuisance species management plan.

# LD 1263 An Act to Eliminate the Need for a Retail Seafood License to Sell Prepared Seafood

PUBLIC 544 EMERGENCY

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
UNDERWOOD	OTP-AM	H-234
		H-259 UNDERWOOD

LD 1263 proposed to permit persons who own restaurants and stores to sell seafood that has been previously prepared by a third party without a retail seafood license.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-234) proposed to replace the bill and allow a person to sell at retail shucked shellfish, provided the shellfish is obtained from a certified shellfish dealer. It also proposed to allow a person to sell lobster parts and meat, provided the lobster parts and meat are obtained from a wholesale seafood license holder who has a permit to process lobster parts and meat.

House Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-259) proposed to add an emergency preamble and clause to the bill to allow the bill to take effect immediately.

#### Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 544 allows a person to sell at retail shucked shellfish, provided the shellfish is obtained from a certified shellfish dealer. It also allows a person to sell lobster parts and meat, provided the lobster parts and meat are obtained from a wholesale seafood license holder who has a permit to process lobster parts and meat. The law is effective on June 12, 1997.

# LD 1264 An Act to Extend the Lobster Promotion Council and Its Personnel PUBLIC 211 Requirements

Sponsor(s)	Committee	Report	Amendments Adopted
ETNIER	OTP-AM	MAJ	H-250
GOLDTHWAIT	ONTP	MIN	

LD 1264 proposed to allow the Lobster Promotion Council to hire staff as needed and continue to capitalize the fund through surcharges on lobster and crab licenses extended through the year 2001.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-250)** proposed to repeal the requirement that at least 50% of the Lobster Promotion Council's annual expenditures from the Lobster Promotion Fund be for the purposes of promotion, advertising and marketing development. The repeal would clarify the Lobster Promotion Council's authority to account for staff time spent on promotion, advertising and marketing development.

#### Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 211 allows the Lobster Promotion Council to hire staff as needed and continues to capitalize the fund through surcharges on lobster and crab licenses extended through the year 2001. It also repeals the requirement that at least 50% of the Lobster Promotion Council's annual expenditures from the Lobster Promotion Fund be for the purposes of promotion, advertising and marketing development. This repeal clarifies the Lobster Promotion Council's authority to account for staff time spent on promotion, advertising and marketing development.

LD 1388 Resolve, Directing the Commissioner of Marine Resources to Request the Secretary of the United States Department of Commerce to Amend the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey

ONTP

Sponsor(s)	Committee	Report	Amendments Adopted
SKOGLUND	ONTP	MAJ	_
PENDLETON P	OTP-AM	MIN	

LD 1388 proposed that the Commissioner of Marine Resources request the Secretary of the United States Department of Commerce to amend the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, which is compiled by the Department of Commerce.

# LD 1445 An Act to Establish a Requirement That Holders of Lobster Fishing CARRIED OVER Licenses Must Own or Control the Vessel from Which They Conduct Authorized Activities

Sponsor(s) Committee Report Amendments Adopted
ETNIER

LD 1445 proposes to require that a holder of a Class I, Class II or Class III lobster and crab fishing license must fish from a vessel owned or controlled by the license holder or a member of the license holder's family unless there is a documented illness or disability. This requirement applies to persons who, on the effective date of the Act, hold a Class I, Class II or Class III license and fishing from a vessel not owned or controlled by the license holder. The bill was carried over to the Second Regular Session of the 118th Legislature.

# LD 1478 An Act to Decriminalize Various Marine Resource Violations and CARRIED OVER Enhance Collectibility of Associated Penalties

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> <u>Committee Report</u> <u>Amendments Adopted</u>

MILLS

LD 1478 proposes to change the general penalty for violation of the marine resources laws from a Class D crime to a civil violation for which a forfeiture of not less than \$100 and not more than \$500 would be adjudged. The bill changes several criminal violations to civil violations. Violations kept as crimes would be amended to specifically state that they are Class D crimes. The bill was carried over to the Second Regular Session of the 118th Legislature.

### LD 1488 Resolve, to Study the Restriction of Entry in Lobster Management RESOLVE 28 Zones

Sponsor(s)Committee ReportAmendments AdoptedETNIEROTP-AMMAJH-247ONTPMIN

LD 1488 proposed to allow a lobster management zone council to recommend rules to the Commissioner of Marine Resources to limit the number of people who may fish a majority of their lobster traps in a zone. It also proposed to give the Commissioner of Marine Resources authority to adopt those rules. The rules would limit the number of people who may fish a majority of their traps in a zone to a number that is less than or equal to a 20% reduction from the number of lobster and crab fishing license holders who, as of December 31st of the first full calendar year in which the zone was operational, designated that zone as their declared lobster zone. The bill also proposed to provide a method for allowing new zone entrants to fish a majority of their traps in a limited harvesting lobster zone when the number falls below the capped amount.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-247)** proposed to change the bill from an Act to a resolve. It proposed to direct the Lobster Advisory Council to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources by February 1, 1998 regarding the establishment of limited entry provisions for lobster management zones.

#### Enacted law summary

Resolve 1997, chapter 28 directs the Lobster Advisory Council to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources by February 1, 1998 regarding the establishment of limited entry provisions for lobster management zones.

LD 1501 An Act to Amend the Lobster Laws and Study the Issuance of Lobster and Crab Fishing Licenses Based on Income Derived from Commercial Fishing **PUBLIC 250** 

Sponsor(s)	Committee	Report	Amendments Adopted
ETNIER	OTP-AM	MAJ	H-307
	ONTP	MIN	H-340 ETNIER

LD 1501 proposed to amend the eligibility requirements for obtaining a Class I, Class II or Class III lobster and crab fishing license. The bill proposed to require a person to meet one of the three following eligibility requirements to obtain a license:

- 1. Document to the commissioner that the person harvested lobsters in calendar year 1996 while in possession of a Class I, Class II or Class III license;
- 2. Meet the requirements of the apprentice program; or
- 3. Be 65 years of age or older and have held a lobster and crab fishing license in the past.

The bill also proposed to require the Commissioner of Marine Resources to report by January 15, 1998 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over marine resource matters on the feasibility of basing categories of lobster and crab fishing licenses on the percentage of income an applicant derives from commercial lobster fishing.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-307) proposed to provide that a person may not obtain a Class I, Class II or Class III lobster and crab fishing license unless that person held one of those licenses in the previous calendar year. The amendment did not proposed to change the bill's repeal of three of the license eligibility requirements: injury or medical condition, substantial investment and sternman experience. The amendment proposed to strike from the bill the repeal of the suspended license eligibility requirement. It also proposed to amend that requirement by allowing a person to obtain a Class I, Class II or Class III lobster and crab fishing license if that person could not obtain a license in the previous calendar year because of a lobster and crab fishing license suspension. The amendment also proposed to clarify that the study proposed in the bill pertains to categories of lobster and crab fishing licenses that are based on the percentage of income an applicant derives from commercial fishing.

**House Amendment "A" (H-340)** proposed to repeal the provision under the lobster apprenticeship program that allows for a waiver of the practical lobster fishing experience component if a person documents to the Commissioner of Marine Resources that the person harvested lobster while in possession of a license issued to that person under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, section 6421.

#### Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 250 amends the eligibility requirements for obtaining a Class I, Class II or Class III lobster and crab fishing license. A person must meet one of the four following eligibility requirements to obtain a license:

- 1. Document to the commissioner that the person possessed a Class I, Class II or Class III license in the previous calendar year;
- 2. Meet the requirements of the apprentice program;
- 3. Be 65 years of age or older and have held a lobster and crab fishing license in the past;
- 4. Have been unable to obtain a lobster and crab fishing license in the previous calendar year because that person's license had been suspended by the commissioner.

The public law repeals the following three eligibility requirements: injury or medical condition, substantial investment and sternman experience. The public law also repeals the provision under the lobster apprenticeship program that allows for a waiver of the practical lobster fishing experience component if a person documents to the Commissioner of Marine Resources that the person harvested lobster while in possession of a lobster and crab fishing license.

It also requires the Commissioner of Marine Resources to report by January 15, 1998 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over marine resource matters on the feasibility of basing categories of lobster and crab fishing licenses on the percentage of income an applicant derives from commercial fishing.

# LD 1519 An Act to Prevent Unnecessary Search and Rescue Operations on Marine Waters PUBLIC 300

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
ETNIER	OTP-AM	H-413
KILKELLY		

LD 1519 proposed to establish the Search and Rescue Fund to fund search and rescue activities of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Department of Marine Resources. The revenue generated from a \$1 surcharge on licenses sold by the Department of Marine Resources and on all-terrain vehicle and snowmobile registrations would have been deposited in the fund. The fund would have been managed and overseen by a committee consisting of representatives of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Department of Marine Resources and public members. The bill proposed to allow the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Department of Marine Resources to recover the cost of providing search and rescue services from a person who intentionally gives false or misleading information that causes an unnecessary search and rescue effort or prolongs an ongoing search and rescue effort.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-413) proposed to replace the bill. It proposed to create a civil penalty for intentionally providing the Department of Marine Resources or causing to be given to the Department of Marine Resources false or misleading information that results in an unnecessary search and rescue effort or prolongs an ongoing search and rescue effort. The State could recover the costs of the search and rescue operation and reasonable attorney's fees.

#### Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 300 creates a civil penalty for intentionally providing the Department of Marine Resources or causing to be given to the Department of Marine Resources false or misleading information that results in an unnecessary search and rescue effort or prolongs an ongoing search and rescue effort. The State may recover the costs of the search and rescue operation and reasonable attorney's fees.

### LD 1752 An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Shrimp Harvesting

**ONTP** 

Season

Sponsor(s)Committee ReportAmendments AdoptedWHEELER GONTP

LD 1752 proposed to set the commercial shrimp harvesting season as February 1st to March 31st.

### LD 1837 An Act to Authorize Shellfish Management Committees to Determine Fees for Clam Licenses

PUBLIC 247 See LD 436

Sponsor(s) Committee Report Amendments Adopted
SKOGLUND

LD 1837 was the unanimous report of the committee on LD 436. The committee's "ought to pass as new draft and new title" on LD 436 resulted in LD 1837.

#### Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 247 removes the \$200 cap that a municipality may set for local resident shellfish licenses.

### **Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources**

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